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S E C R E T USNATO 2042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG-APRIL 11 STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: A. STATE 72951

B. USNATO 1528

C. STATE 77746

D. USNATO 1977

E. USNATO 1733

SUMMARY: AT APRIL 11 NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, US REP PROPOSED MOVING RELEASE DATE FOR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING TO JUNE 9. DURING DISCUSSION OF MINISTERIAL AGENDA, US REP SUGGESTED AN APPROACH FOR HANDLING DISCUSSION OF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING, AND PROPOSED DELETION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY ON AIR DEFENSE USE. SG HELD GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FIRST DRAFT OF PERMREPS REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY PROGRAM. SG MEMBERS WERE GENERALLY CRITICAL OF THE DRAFT. IS UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE A REVISED DRAFT OF THE REPORT WHICH SG WILL ADDRESS ON APRIL 25. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT APRIL 11 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING, US REP (WOODWORTH) PROPOSED JUNE 9 AS RELEASE DATE FOR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING (REFS A AND B). US REP ALSO ADVISED SG, PER REF A, THAT USG COULD BE ASKED AT A MUCH EARLIER DATE

ABOUT PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES AT MONTEREY, LEADING THE USG TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NPG MEETING.

2. SG DISCUSSED DRAFT MINISTERIAL AGENDA. US REP, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF C, SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT LENGTH OF AGENDA, AND WISHED TO SHORTEN IT WHERE POSSIBLE AND REACH AGREEMENT ON HANDLING OF SPECIFIC ITEMS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FULL DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS. US REP PROPOSED DELETION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY ON AIR DEFENSE. SG TOOK NOTE OF PROPOSAL AND AGREED TO RETURN TO SUBJECT AT NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 21.

3. UK REP (BEAUMONT) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO FAVOR INCLUDING SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) AS SEPARATE ITEM ON THE AGENDA, AND WOULD WELCOME CIRCULATION OF A WRITTEN STATUS REPORT BY SHAPE PRIOR TO MEETING. SHAPE REP (SCOTCHMER) SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE SHAPE WOULD HAVE MUCH TO ADD TO THE REPORT IT CIRCULATED LAST DECEMBER. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS SURE SACEUR WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT, HE DOUBTED UTILITY OF UNCLUDING SEP AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM. US REP SAID THAT IF SHAPE DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO ADD, HE THOUGHT THAT THE DECEMBER WRITTEN REPORT SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE BACKGROUND. HE SUGGESTED THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF HOLDING DOWN LENGTH OF AGENDA, BEST APPROACH MIGHT BE FOR SACEUR TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SEP IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM MINISTERS. SUCH QUESTIONS COULD BE RAISED UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, OR PERHAPS IN CONTEXT OF OTHER AGENDA ITEMS, SUCH AS FOLLOW-ON USE. UK REP SAID HE WOULD REPORT US SUGGESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES, WHICH HE SAID SOUNDED REASONABLE.

4. SG HELD GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FIRST DRAFT OF NPG PERMREPS REPORT ON PHASE II OF THE FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY PROGRAM (REF E). SG MEMBERS WERE GENERALLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE DRAFT, INDICATING IN PARTICULAR THAT IT:

A) SEEMED OVERLY CRITICAL OF THE PHASE II FINAL REPORT;

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B) DID NOT ADEQUATELY EMPHASIZE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE ROLE OF FOLLOW-ON USE IN NATO STRATEGY IDENTIFIED IN THE PHASE II FINAL REPORT;

C) FAILED TO PRESENT CLEARLY THE ISSUES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS THAT MINISTERS MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS; AND

D) CONTAINED A NUMBER OF INACCURATE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS.

SG REPS WERE PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF PARA 16 WHICH SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT WORK IN NATO TO DATE ON NUCLEAR POLICY AND DOCTRINE HAD LED TO AN OVER-EMPHASIS OF POLITICAL FACTORS.

5. US REP SAID THAT THE DRAFT SEEMED TO TOUCH ON SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES, BUT THAT THEIR PRESENTATION NEEDED SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE REPORT SHOULD BE STRUCTURED TO (A) SET OUT IN GENERAL TERMS THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE PHASE II REPORT, GIVING APPROPRIATE EMPHASIS TO THEIR POSITIVE ASPECTS; (B) DELINEATE CAREFULLY THE LIMITATIONS OF THE PHASE I STUDIES, WHICH UNDERLIE THE CONCLUSIONS IN PHASE II; (C) DISCUSS THE ISSUES THEY RAISE; AND (D) SET OUT IN CLEAR TERMS ANY POLICY IMPLICATION THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO MINISTERS. US REP NOTED THAT SUBJECT ADDRESSED IN PARA 8 OF THE DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT (I.E., WHETHER NATO ENDS UP ULTIMATELY WORSE OFF AS RESULT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS) REQUIRED CAREFUL HANDLING TO PREVENT AN OVERLY SIMPLISTIC ATTITUDE FROM DEVELOPING ON THE UTILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON THE DETERRENT.

6. IS UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE REVISED DRAFT OF PERMREPS REPORT WHICH STAFF GROUP WILL ADDRESS ON APRIL 25. COMMENT: MISSION PLANS TO WORK WITH IS IN OFFERING SUGGESTIONS FOR REDRAFT OF THE PERMREPS REPORT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE FIRST DRAFT REQUESTED IN REF E THAT WE COULD DRAW ON IN ASSISTING THE IS.

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